

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said establishment computer is capable of communicating with a financial institution for electronically processing payments.

3. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, further comprising a third party computer, wherein said device communicates with said establishment computer through said third party computer.

4. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 3, wherein said third party computer is capable of communicating with a financial institution for electronically processing payments.

5-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said device is a kiosk comprising a computer, a display, and a means for receiving input.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said device is a personal digital assistant.

15. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said device is a personal computer.

16. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said system comprises means for determining and transmitting information regarding the location of said device.

17. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 16, wherein said means for determining device location comprises a global positioning system.

18. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 16, wherein said means for determining device location comprises a satellite-based radio positioning system.

19. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 16, wherein said means for determining device location comprises cellular tower triangulation.

20. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 16, wherein said means for determining device location comprises reading the location of an RF ID tag associated with said device.

21. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said establishment computer further comprises software enabled means for commanding a notification message.

22. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said software enabled means for receiving said order comprises a telephony system, wherein said order is input via keypad selections.

23-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim [[1]] 247, wherein said software which configures said at least one computer for receiving

said order further comprises software which, when executed, performs econfigures said computer for displaying a series of hierachal menus on a visual display.

31. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim [[1]] 247, wherein said software which configures said at least one computer for assigning resources to said order further comprises software which, when executed, performs econfigures said computer for determining tracking [[the]] availability of at least one limiting resource necessary to fulfill said at least one order.

32. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim 31, wherein said software which, when executed, performs econfigures said computer for determining tracking the availability of the at least one limiting resource necessary to fulfill said at least one order comprises software which, when executed, performs econfigures said computer for referring to a look-up table comprising information that associates different types of limiting resources with different types of orders.

33. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim 31, wherein said software which configures said at least one computer for assigning resources to said order further comprises software which, when executed, performs econfigures said computer for determining a set of components for said at least one order, and software which, when executed, performs econfigures said computer for determining tracking [[the]] availability of at least one limiting resource necessary to fulfill each component of said order set of components.

34. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim 33, wherein said software which configures said at least one computer for determining the availability of at least one limiting resource necessary to fulfill of said order components further comprises software which, when executed, performs econfigures said computer for referring to a look-up table comprising information that associates different types of limiting resources with different order components.

35. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 32, wherein said means for assigning resources to said order further comprises software enabled means for matching an order, or component thereof, to a limiting resource.

36. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 35, wherein said means for matching an order, or component thereof, to a limiting resource comprises software enabled optimization rules.

37. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 36, wherein said optimization rules comprise assigning an available resource to an earliest placed order in a set of pending orders.

38. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 36, wherein said optimization rules comprise minimizing idle time for said limiting resources.

39. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 36, wherein said optimization rules comprise maximizing order throughput.

40. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 36, wherein said optimization rules comprise minimizing total customer wait time.

41. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 36, wherein said optimization rules comprise maximizing establishment employee utilization.

42. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 36, wherein said optimization rules comprise maximizing delivery driver utilization.

43. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 36, wherein said optimization rules comprise valuing time as a function of time.
44. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 36, wherein said optimization rules comprise optimizing service to customers having differing service levels.
45. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said means for commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises software enabled means for determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof.
46. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 45, wherein said means for determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof, comprises software enabled means for estimating an arrival time of a customer at an establishment and determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof, such that order completion coincides with said customer's estimated arrival time.
47. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 45, wherein said means for determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof, comprises software enabled means for estimating an arrival time of a delivery driver at an establishment and determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof, such that order completion coincides with said delivery driver's estimated arrival time.
48. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 46, wherein said means for estimating an arrival time of said customer comprises tracking said customer's location.
49. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 48, wherein tracking said customer's location comprises tracking said customer's location, direction, and speed of travel.

50. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 47, wherein said means for estimating an arrival time of said delivery driver comprises tracking said driver's location.

51. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 50, wherein tracking said driver's location comprises tracking said driver's location, direction, and speed of travel.

52. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 46, wherein said means for estimating an arrival time of a customer comprises tracking a vehicle on or in which said customer is traveling.

53. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 52, wherein tracking a vehicle on or in which said customer is traveling comprises tracking said vehicle's location, direction, and speed of travel.

54. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 52, wherein said vehicle is an airplane and said means for estimating an arrival time of said customer comprises estimating a time spent deplaning and traveling from an arrival gate.

55. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 46, where said estimated arrival time is a limiting resource.

56. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 47, where said estimated arrival time is a limiting resource.

57. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said means for commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises software enabled means for determining whether a triggering condition is satisfied.

58. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 57, wherein said triggering condition comprises a customer's arrival at a predetermined location.

59. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 57, wherein said triggering condition comprises a delivery driver's arrival at a predetermined location.

60. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 57, wherein said triggering condition comprises a delivery driver's proximity to a predetermined location.

61. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 57, wherein said means for commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises notifying a customer when a delivery driver is within a predetermined distance from a predetermined location.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said system further comprises software enabled means for confirming the completion of said order.

64. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 63, wherein said means for confirming the completion of said order comprises means for receiving a confirmation notification from a device.

65. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 64, wherein said device is associated with a delivery driver.

66. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 65, wherein said device is a telephone.

67. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 65, wherein said device is a PDA.

68. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 65, wherein said device is to be located at an establishment fulfilling said order.

69. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said system further comprises software enabled means for sending a notification of a request to a device.

70. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 69, wherein said request is a request for confirmation of completion of said order.

71. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 70, wherein said device is associated with a delivery driver.

72. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 71, wherein said device is a telephone.

73. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 71, wherein said device is a PDA.

74. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 71, wherein said device is to be located at an establishment fulfilling said order.

75. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises sending a notification to a device of a delivery driver associated with said order.

76. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim [[1]] 247, wherein commanding fulfillment of said order comprises sending the at least one notification comprises at least one notification of an assigned, an un-assigned and a re-assigned order, to a delivery driver.

77. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherin commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises sending a customer a notification upon a delivery of said order.

78-80. (Canceled)

81. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 57, wherein said triggering condition comprises completion of the preparation of all of the meals for a delivery driver's delivery run.

82-84. (Canceled)

85. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said notification message comprises a telephone call to a designated telephone number.

86. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said notification message comprises a telephone page to a designated pager.

87. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said notification message comprises an e-mail message to a designated e-mail address

88. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said notification message comprises an instant message to a designated computer address.

89. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said notification message comprises a print out.

90. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said notification message comprises sounding an alarm on a personal digital assistant.

91. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said notification message comprises vibration on a personal digital assistant.

92. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said notification message comprises a visual display.

93. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said software enabled means for commanding a notification message comprises a notification database, wherein a specific notification means can be stored for a specific customer.

94. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said software enabled means for commanding a notification message comprises a notification database, wherein a specific notification means can be stored for a specific establishment employee.

95. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said software enabled means for commanding a notification message comprises a notification database, wherein a specific notification means can be stored for establishment employees based on job function.

96. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said software enabled means for commanding a notification message comprises means for determining when a specific notification message should be sent.

97. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 21, wherein said software enabled means for commanding a notification message comprises means for determining a customer's distance from a specified location and commanding said notification message based on an expected travel time to said specified location.

98-113. (Canceled)

114. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 1, wherein said order is intended for delivery to a customer, said system further comprising:

means for tracking the location of at least one delivery person,
means for predicting when a delivery person will be available to pick up said order, and
means for assigning said order to a delivery person.

115. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 114, wherein said system further comprises means for scheduling completion of said order to coincide with a delivery person's availability.

116. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 114, wherein said system further comprises means for notifying said delivery person of assignments.

117. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 116, wherein said system further comprises means for notifying said delivery person of delivery instructions.

118. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 114, wherein system further comprises means for monitoring the safety of a delivery person.

119. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 114, wherein a plurality of delivery persons are organized into a virtual delivery team for a plurality of establishments.

120. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 114, wherein a plurality of supplemental delivery persons in a hybrid delivery team are used in addition to a plurality of regular delivery persons.

121. (Withdrawn) The order optimization system according to claim 120 where in said plurality of supplemental delivery persons comprise taxi-cab drivers.

122. (Canceled)

123. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, further comprising communicating with a financial institution and processing payment electronically.

124-127. (Canceled)

128. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, wherein said device is a kiosk comprising a computer, a display, and a means for receiving input.

129-132. (Canceled)

133. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, wherein said device is a personal digital assistant.

134. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, wherein said device is a personal computer.

135. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, wherein said method further comprises determining and transmitting information regarding the location of said device.

136. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 135, wherein determining device location comprises tracking said device via a global positioning system.

137. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 135, wherein said determining device location comprises tracking said device via a satellite-based radio positioning system.

138. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 135, wherein said determining device location comprises tracking said device via cellular tower triangulation.

139. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 135, wherein said determining device location comprises reading the location of an RF ID tag associated with said device.

140. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 135, wherein said method further comprises commanding a notification message.

141. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, wherein receiving said order comprises using a telephony system, wherein said order is input via keypad selections.

142. (Canceled)

143. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 141, wherein receiving said order comprises identifying a customer placing said order, and said telephony system comprises a memory, and software enabled means for querying said memory for said customer's previous order history and order preferences.

144. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 143, wherein identifying a customer placing said order comprises an inputted personal identification number.

145. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 143, wherein identifying a customer placing said order comprises identifying the telephone number being used to access said telephony system.

146. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 143, wherein receiving said order further comprises offering said customer a preferred order.

147. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 143, wherein receiving said order further comprises offering said customer a previously ordered order.

148. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 143, wherein receiving said order further comprises offering said customer a predetermined order associated with said customer.

149. (Canceled)

150. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method according to claim [[122]] 253, wherein assigning resources to said order continuously tracking status of the orders and estimating the completion time comprises determining [[the]] availability of at least one limiting resource necessary to fulfill said orders.

151. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method according to claim 150, wherein determining the availability of said at least one limiting resource necessary to fulfill said orders comprises referring to a look-up table comprising information that associates different types of limiting resources with different types of orders.

152. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method according to claim 150, further comprising wherein assigning resources to said order comprises

determining a set of components for said each order, and

determining [[the]] availability of at least one limiting resource necessary to fulfill each of said order components.

153. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method according to claim 152, wherein determining the availability of said at least one limiting resource necessary to fulfill said orders components comprises referring to a look-up table comprising information that associates different types of limiting resources with different order components.

154. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 151, wherein s assigning resources to said order further comprises matching an order, or component thereof, to a limiting resource.

155. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 154, wherein matching an order, or component thereof, to a limiting resource comprises matching an order, or component thereof, to a limiting resource according to optimization rules.

156. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 155, wherein said optimization rules comprise assigning an available resource to an earliest placed order in a set of pending orders.

157. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 155, wherein said optimization rules comprise minimizing idle time for said limiting resources.

158. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 155, wherein said optimization rules comprise maximizing order throughput.

159. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 155, wherein said optimization rules comprise minimizing total customer wait time.

160. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 155, wherein said optimization rules comprise maximizing establishment employee utilization.

161. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 155, wherein said optimization rules comprise maximizing delivery driver utilization.

162. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 155, wherein said optimization rules comprise valuing time as a function of time.

163. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 155, wherein said optimization rules comprise optimizing service to customers having differing service levels.

164. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, wherein commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof.

165. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 164, wherein determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof, comprises estimating an arrival time of a customer at an establishment and determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof, such that order completion coincides with said customer's estimated arrival time.

166. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 164, wherein determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof, comprises estimating an arrival time

of a delivery driver at an establishment and determining a starting time for preparing each order, or component thereof, such that order completion coincides with said driver's estimated arrival time.

167. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 166, wherein estimating an arrival time of said customer comprises tracking said customer's location.

168. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 166, wherein estimating an arrival time of said customer comprises tracking said customer's location, direction, and speed of travel.

169. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 166, wherein estimating an arrival time of said delivery driver comprises tracking said delivery driver's location.

170. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 166, wherein estimating an arrival time of said delivery driver comprises tracking said driver's location, direction, and speed of travel.

171. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 166, wherein estimating an arrival time of said customer comprises tracking a vehicle on or in which said customer is traveling.

172. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 171, wherein tracking a vehicle on or in which said customer is traveling comprises tracking said vehicle's location, direction, and speed of travel.

173. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 171, wherein said vehicle is an airplane and estimating an arrival time of said customer comprises estimating the time spent deplaning and traveling from an arrival gate.

174. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 166, wherein estimated arrival time is a limiting resource.

175. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 169, wherein estimated arrival time is a limiting resource.

176. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, wherein commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises determining whether a triggering condition is satisfied.

177. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 176, wherein said triggering condition comprises a customer's arrival at a predetermined location.

178. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 176, wherein said triggering condition comprises a delivery driver's arrival at a predetermined location.

179. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 176, wherein said triggering condition comprises a delivery driver's proximity to a predetermined location.

180. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 176, wherein commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises notifying the customer when the delivery driver is within a predetermined distance from a predetermined location.

181. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 176, wherein commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises changing an ON/OFF state of an electrical device.

182. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122 wherein commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises sending notification to a device of a delivery driver associated with said order.

183. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method according to claim [[122]] 252, wherein commanding the fulfillment of said order providing the at least one notification comprises maximizing [[the]] a productivity of [[a]] the selected delivery person driver associated with said order.

184. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery system according to claim [[183]] 252, wherein maximizing the productivity of said delivery driver associated with said order providing the at least one notification comprises sending a notification of at least one of an assigned, an un-assigned and a re-assigned order, to at least one device of associated with said selected delivery person driver.

185. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, wherein commanding the fulfillment of said order comprises sending a customer a notification upon delivery of said order.

186-188. (Canceled)

189. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 176, wherein said triggering condition comprises a completion of the preparation of all of the meals assigned to a particular delivery driver's delivery run.

190-192. (Canceled)

193. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said notification message comprises a telephone call to a designated telephone number.

194. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said notification message comprises a telephone page to a designated pager.

195. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said notification message comprises an e-mail message to a designated email address.

196. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said notification message comprises an instant message to a designated computer address.

197. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said notification message comprises a print out.

198. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said notification message comprises sounding an alarm on a personal digital assistant.

199. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said notification message comprises vibration on a personal digital assistant.

200. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said notification message comprises a visual display.

201. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein commanding a notification message comprises referencing a notification database, wherein a specific notification method can be stored for a specific customer.

202. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein said commanding a notification message comprises referencing a notification database, wherein a specific notification method can be stored for a specific establishment employee.

203. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein commanding a notification message comprises referencing a notification database, wherein a specific notification method can be stored for establishment employees based on job function.

204. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein commanding a notification message comprises determining when a specific notification message should be sent.

205. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 140, wherein commanding a notification message comprises determining a customer's distance from a specified location and commanding said notification message based on an expected travel time to said specified location.

206. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 122, further comprising limiting the usage of a limiting resource.

207. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 206, wherein said limiting the usage of a limiting resource comprises charging a customer for the use of said limiting resource.

208. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 207, wherein charging a customer for the use of said limiting resource comprises determining an amount of time said customer uses said limiting resource and charging said customer based on said amount of time said customer uses said limiting resource.

209. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 208, wherein determining said amount of time comprises entering manually a start time and a stop time.

210. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 208, wherein said determining said amount of time comprises sensing the use of said limiting resource.

211. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 208, further comprising displaying said amount of time to said customer.

212-217. (Canceled)

218. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 216, wherein said order is intended for delivery to a customer, said method further comprising:

tracking the location of at least one delivery person,
predicting the when a delivery person will be available to pick up said order, and
assigning said order to a delivery person.

219. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 218, wherein said system further comprises means for scheduling completion of said order to coincide with a delivery person's availability.

220. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 218, wherein said method further comprises notifying said delivery person of assignments.

221. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 220, wherein said method further comprises notifying said delivery person of delivery instructions.

222. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 218, wherein system further comprises monitoring the safety of a delivery person.

223. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 218, wherein a plurality of delivery persons are organized into a virtual delivery team for a plurality of establishments

224. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 218, wherein a plurality of supplemental delivery persons in a hybrid delivery team are used in addition to a plurality of regular delivery persons.

225. (Withdrawn) The order optimization method according to claim 224 wherein said plurality of supplemental delivery persons comprise taxi-cab drivers.

226. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim [[1]] 247, wherein the order processing at least one computer further executes comprises software which, when executed, performs configures said order processing computer for predicting future availability of resources.

227. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim [[1]] 247, wherein the order processing at least one computer further executes comprises software which, when executed, performs configures said order processing computer for tracking a processing status of said at least one order.

228. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim [[1]] 247, wherein the order processing at least one computer further executes comprises software which, when executed, performs configures said order processing computer for determining a priority value of said at least one order.

229. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claim 228, wherein the order processing at least one computer further executes comprises software which, when executed, performs configures said order processing computer for adjusting the priority value of said at least one order.

230. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery management system according to claims [[1]] 247, 228 or 229, wherein the order processing at least one computer further executes comprises software which, when executed, performs configures said order processing computer for halting fulfillment of said at least one order.

231. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method of claim [[122]] 253 further comprising predicting future availability of resources.

232. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method of claim [[122]] 253 further comprising tracking a processing status of said at least one order.

233. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method of claim [[122]] 253 further comprising determining a priority value of said at least one order.

234. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method of claim 233 further comprising adjusting the priority value of said at least one order.

235. (Currently amended) The order optimization delivery method of claim [[122]] 253, 233 or 234 further comprising halting fulfillment of said at least one order.

236-237. (Canceled)

238. (Currently amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim [[236]] 258 further encoded with wherein the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when executed, perform predicting future availability of at least one resource for completing orders.

239. (Currently amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim [[236]] 258 further encoded with computer-readable instructions which, when executed, perform wherein the optimizing further comprises optimizing allocation of resources to processing of said at least one order.

240. (Currently amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim [[236]] 259 further encoded with wherein the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when executed, perform tracking of processing status of said at least one order.

241. (Currently amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim [[236]] 259 further encoded with wherein the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when

executed, perform determining determine a priority value of said at least one order relative to one or more other received orders.

242. (Currently amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim [[236]] 241 further encoded with wherein the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when executed, perform adjusting the priority value of said at least one order.

243. (Currently amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim [[236]] 259, 241 or 242 further encoded with wherein the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when executed, perform halting fulfillment of said at least one order.

244. (Currently amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim [[236]] 259 further encoded with wherein the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when executed, perform adjusting resources allocated to said at least one order after processing of said at least one order has commenced.

245. (Currently amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim [[236]] 259 further encoded with wherein the computer-readable medium further comprises instructions which, when executed, perform adjusting resources allocated to an order different from said at least one order after processing of said at least one order has commenced.

246. (Canceled)

247. (New) An order delivery management system, comprising:
at least one computer; and
an input device configured to receive orders and transmit the orders to the at least one computer, wherein the at least one computer comprises software which, when executed, performs
(a) receiving at least one order from the input device,

(b) continuously tracking locations of one or more delivery persons and/or one or more vehicles associated with the one or more delivery persons and estimating availability of the one or more delivery persons,

(c) evaluating the estimated availability and, in response, determining an optimized utilization of the one or more delivery person, based on a set of criteria, for a delivery of the at least one order, wherein the determination comprises matching the at least one order with a delivery person selected in accordance with a current optimized utilization of the one or more delivery persons,

(d) when the optimized utilization differs from an immediately previous optimized utilization of the one or more delivery persons, reassigning the at least one order from a previously selected delivery person to a currently selected delivery person, and

(e) when the at least one order is ready for a delivery, providing at least one notification to the then selected delivery person.

248. (New) The order delivery management system of claim 247, wherein the at least one computer further comprises software which, when executed, performs

continuously tracking status of the orders and estimating order completion times, wherein the estimated order completion times are used in matching the at least one order with the delivery person.

249. (New) The order delivery management system of claim 247, wherein the one or more delivery persons comprise one or more delivery drivers.

250. (New) The order delivery management system of claim 247, wherein the at least one computer further comprises software which, when executed, performs

analyzing the locations of the one or more delivery persons to deduce traffic conditions and adjust preparation of pending orders.

251. (New) The order delivery management system of claim 247, wherein the locations of the one or more delivery persons are tracked using a global positioning system.

252. (New) The order delivery management system of claim 247, wherein continuously tracking locations of the one or more delivery persons and/or the one or more vehicles comprises tracking traveling speed of the one or more delivery persons and/or the one or more vehicles.

253. (New) An order delivery method, comprising:

receiving at least one order from an input device configured to receive orders and transmit the orders to at least one computer; and

operating the at least one computer to

(a) continuously track locations of one or more delivery persons and/or one or more vehicles associated with the one or more delivery persons and estimate availability of the one or more delivery persons,

(b) evaluate the estimated availability and, in response, determine an optimized utilization of the one or more delivery persons, based on a set of criteria, for a delivery of the at least one order, wherein the determination comprises matching the at least one order with a delivery person selected in accordance with a current optimized utilization of the one or more delivery persons,

(c) when the optimized utilization differs from an immediately previous optimized utilization of the one or more delivery persons, reassign the at least one order from a previously selected delivery person to a currently selected delivery person, and

(d) when the at least one order is ready for a delivery, provide at least one notification to the then selected delivery person.

254. (New) The order delivery method of claim 253, further comprising operating the at least one computer to continuously track status of the orders and estimate order completion times, wherein the estimated order completion times are used in matching the at least one order with the delivery person.

255. (New) The order delivery method of claim 253, wherein the one or more delivery persons comprise one or more delivery drivers.

256. (New) The order delivery method of claim 253, further comprising operating the at least one computer to analyze the locations of the one or more delivery persons to deduce traffic conditions and adjust preparation of pending orders.

257. (New) The order delivery method of claim 253, wherein the locations of the one or more delivery persons are tracked using a global positioning system.

258. (New) The order delivery method of claim 253, wherein operating the at least one computer to continuously track locations of the one or more delivery persons and/or the one or more vehicles comprises operating the at least one computer to track traveling speed of the one or more delivery persons and/or the one or more vehicles.

259. (New) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

receiving at least one order from an input device configured to receive orders and transmit the orders to at least one computer;

continuously tracking locations of one or more delivery persons and/or one or more vehicles associated with the one or more delivery persons and estimating availability of the one or more delivery persons;

evaluating the estimated availability and, in response, determining an optimized utilization of the one or more delivery persons, based on a set of criteria, for a delivery of the at least one order, wherein the determination comprises matching the at least one order with a delivery person selected in accordance with a current optimized utilization of the one or more delivery persons;

when the optimized utilization differs from an immediately previous optimized utilization of the one or more delivery persons, reassigning the at least one order from a previously selected delivery person to a currently selected delivery person; and

when the at least one order is ready for a delivery, providing at least one notification to the then selected delivery person.

260. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 259, wherein the method further comprises continuously tracking status of the orders and estimating order completion times, wherein the estimated order completion times are used in matching the at least one order with the delivery person.

261. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 259, wherein the one or more delivery persons comprise one or more delivery drivers.

262. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 259, wherein the method further comprises analyzing the locations of the one or more delivery persons to deduce traffic conditions and adjust preparation of pending orders.

263. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 259, wherein the locations of the one or more delivery persons are tracked using a global positioning system.

264. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 259, wherein continuously tracking locations of the one or more delivery persons and/or the one or more vehicles comprises tracking traveling speed of the one or more delivery persons and/or the one or more vehicles.